



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 01-12-03-02 / 1000 HOURS
DATE OF OCCURRENCE: 01-11-03
NATURE OF CALL: MISSING SNOWMOBILERS
LOCATION OF CALL: CHINA WALL – PLACER COUNTY
CASE NUMBER: SO-03-649
RELEASED BY: SERGEANT M. HARRIS

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Donald Denne, 53 of Auburn and Gregory Belanger 45 also of Auburn went to the China Wall staging area east of Foresthill on Saturday 01-11-03 to go snowmobile riding. The men became disoriented after darkness and were unable to find their way out of the wilderness area. They were able to contact CHP using a cellular telephone. The men reported that they were not injured and had warm clothing and equipment to spend the night. Deputy Bob Bumpus responded to China Wall and established a command post after requesting Search & Rescue (SAR) personnel to prepare a rescue at first light this date.

CHP Helicopter 23 and the Sheriff's Falcon 30 located Denne and Belanger this morning. The Falcon 30 crew directed SAR personnel on snowmobiles and a snowcat to the men who were cold and tired but otherwise in good shape. The men were transported out of the wilderness and united with their awaiting families.

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